

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.     A method for automatically disabling an audible alarm in a cell phone, comprising the steps of:

              determining whether the cell phone has received a non-audible control signal;

- 10            automatically disabling an audible alarm when the non-audible mode or control signal is received;

              automatically enabling a non-audible alarm to notify a user of an incoming call when the non-audible control signal is received.

- 15           2.     The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of disabling the audible alarm for as long as the non-audible control signal is being received by the cell phone.

- 20           3.     The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of automatically reactivating the audible alarm and disabling the non-audible alarm when the cell phone stops receiving the non-audible control signal.

- 25           4.     The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of disabling the audible alarm for a fixed, pre-determined amount of time.

5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the step of automatically reactivating the audible alarm and disabling the non-audible alarm after the fixed, pre-determined amount of time has elapsed.

5 6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of activating a blinking light to notify the user of the incoming call when the non-audible control signal is received.

10 7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of activating a vibration unit to notify the user of the incoming call when the non-audible control signal is received.

15 8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of overriding the non-audible control signal.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of broadcasting the non-audible control signal as an omni-directional RF signal.

20 10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the non-audible control signal as a directional RF signal.

11. An apparatus for automatically disabling an audible alarm in a cell phone, comprising:

25 a receiver for receiving a non-audible mode signal;

a speaker coupled to the receiver which generates an audible sound to notify a user of an incoming call;

a processor coupled to the speaker which automatically disables an audible alarm when the non-audible mode signal is received and which automatically enables a non-audible alarm to notify a user of any incoming calls when the non-audible mode signal is received.

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12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the processor disables the audible alarm for as long as the non-audible mode signal is being received by the cell phone.

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13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the processor automatically reactivates the audible alarm and disables the non-audible alarm when the cell phone stops receiving the non-audible mode signal.

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14. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the processor disables the audible alarm for a fixed, pre-determined amount of time.

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15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the processor automatically reactivates the audible alarm and disables the non-audible alarm after the fixed, pre-determined amount of time has elapsed.

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16. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the processor activates a blinking light to notify the user of the incoming call when the non-audible mode signal is received.

17. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the processor activates a vibration unit to notify the user of the incoming call when the non-audible mode signal is received.

18. The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising an over-ride switch to over-ride the non-audible mode signal.

5 19. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising an RF transmitter which broadcasts an omni-directional non-audible mode signal.

10 20. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising an RF transmitter which broadcasts a directional non-audible mode signal.

21. A method for automatically disabling an audible alarm in a pager, comprising the steps of:

15 determining whether the pager has received a non-audible mode signal;

automatically disabling an audible alarm when the non-audible mode signal is received;

automatically enabling a non-audible alarm to notify a user of an incoming page when the non-audible mode signal is received.

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22. An apparatus for automatically disabling an audible alarm in a pager, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a non-audible mode signal;

25 a speaker coupled to the receiver which generates an audible sound to notify a user of an incoming page;

a processor coupled to the speaker which automatically disables an audible alarm when the non-audible mode or control signal is received

and which automatically enables a non-audible alarm to notify a user of any incoming pages when the non-audible mode signal is received.